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The Decorator and Furnisher Supplement,

DEVOTED TO THE

Upholstery, Carpet, Furniture and House Furnishing Trades.

VOL. VIII. JUNE, 1886. No. 3.

THE STRIKE.

A NEW VERSION OF ITS CONTINUANCE.

THERE is a good deal of quiet dissatisfaction among the leading business men of this city about the course the great dailies have taken in "the contest between capital and labor," as the papers have it. In conversation with one of the wealthy and solid down-town merchants a few days since a most decided expression of this dissatisfaction was given.

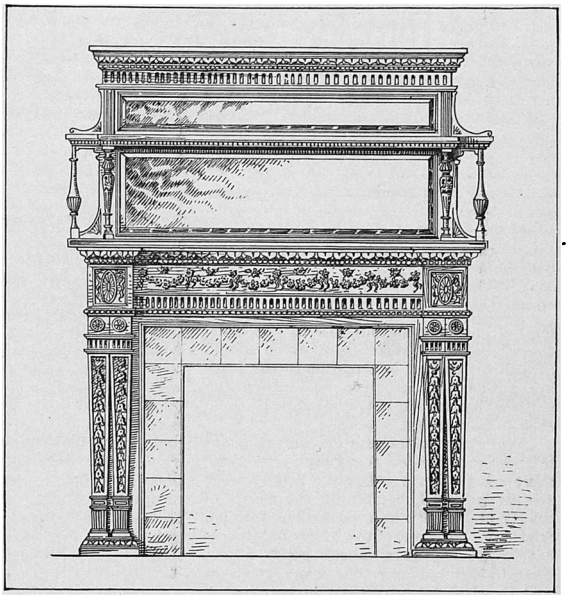
After some general discussion on the strike and its causes, I inquired :

"Do you think there is any good reason for the long continuance of this agitation ?"

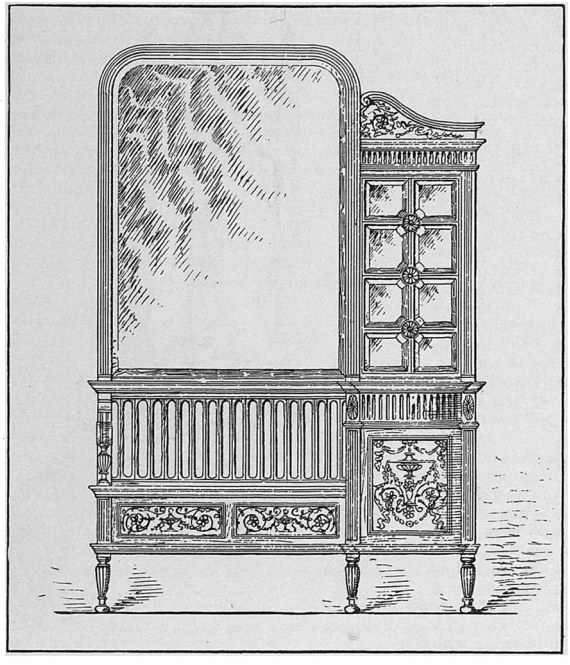
"Yes and no. If you ask for the fundamental cause of its continuance I can give it to you in a few words. 'The great dailies' are directly responsible for it. You are surprised; most people will be when they discover that for the sake of increasing their circulation and providing sensation lovers with inflammable and incendiary literature these people have pandered to the lowest elements in human nature, and some of them are looked upon as the organs of the mob. One paper was quoted at the Union Square mass meeting as supporting the movement and the same paper advertized the fact the next day to its own disgrace, and it will, probably, find in the long run to its own financial disadvantage."

"And so you attribute most of this trouble to the attitude of these papers," I remarked.

"Yes. It is safe to say that if the papers had used any common sense or reason in their treatment of the matter, the trouble would have been ended long ago. But as I tell you, for the sake of selling a few more copies, each has vied with the other in patting these mad-brained fanatical leaders and their equally unreasoning followers on the back, egging them on to further and more extreme measures by their open as well as tacit encouragement. For the sake of their circulation they have paralyzed trade and crippled manufactures. They are in high feather just now over their enormous circulation, but there is a reckoning day and there is no reason why they, more than any other revelers, should dance without 'paying the piper.'"



MANTEL, ADAMS STYLE, DESIGNED AND MADE BY KEELER & CO., BOSTON.



COLONIAL HALL STAND, DESIGNED AND MADE BY KEELER & CO., BOSTON.

"I don't understand," I said.

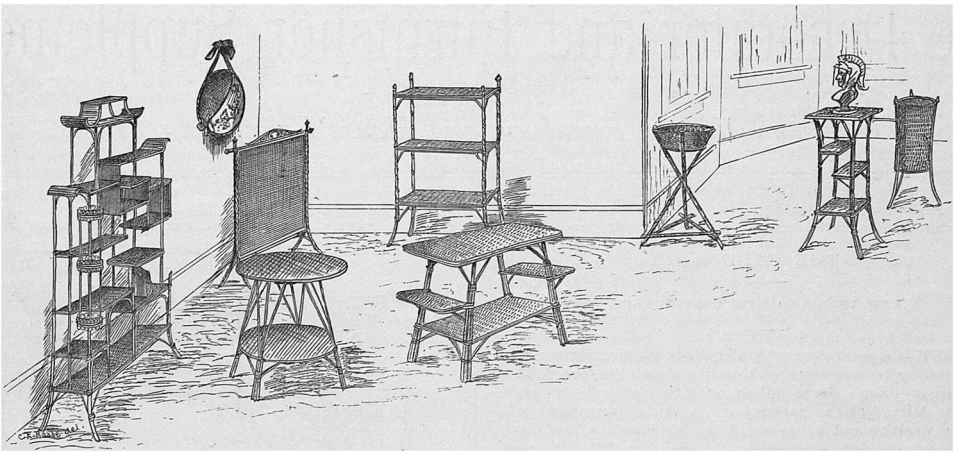
"The papers will when next the solicitor for advertisements goes around," was the reply. "We don't intend that these papers shall go unwhipped of justice I assure you. Our advertizing patronage and not their circulation has been the foundation and superstructure of their prosperity, and now for the sake of the two or three cents that some strikers will pay for their paper they have sacrificed the men who have poured a continuous stream of dollars into their treasuries. You didn't hear of our quiet meeting for discussing this matter, did you ?" he inquired.

"No I didn't, and I don't intend to ask any particulars about it either, for I don't want to know anything but results. How are you going to do it. They will turn the 'boycott' curs loose upon you."

"Oh no, they will be too anxious for money to keep up their big plants to do that. Beside we will not withdraw our patronage altogether, but be assured there are scores of men who have paid ten, twenty, thirty thousand dollars a year for advertising who will be very careful that these papers don't grow rich out of their exchequers. When they learn that the man who pays the amount of a thousand subscriptions a month is entitled to more respect than the fellow who harangues a crowd and pays a few cents for the paper that flaunts his name as an orator, they will have advanced a long way on the road to permanent prosperity. We are just as well able to destroy these papers as we were to make them what they are, and if it is necessary to teach the managing editors their lessons through the bank account and the business office, we are sufficiently well organized to do it. As it is, let them get their big advertizing bills from the class to whose tastes and weaknesses they cater."

The speaker was a man well known for his sound business sense, and as he walked away I could but wonder that we hadn't seen through this before.

THE employees in the Shade Roller Factory of Stewart Hartshorne, East Newark, N. J., have presented their employer with an unanimous testimonial as to his liberality and kindly treatment of them. This statement being called forth by a charge of dissatisfaction made against them in a local paper.



INDIA PUNJAB GOODS, DESIGNED AND MADE BY A. MEINECKE & SON, MILWAUKEE.

AN AFTERNOON AMONG THE TRADES.

EDITORS, as well as other people, are fond of an afternoon out, and so we started on an "outing," the results of which should furnish instructive information to the reading public and convince our advertising patrons that we are not unmindful of them even in our busiest seasons.

While the manufacturers warerooms at this season show but few "high novelties," there are yet many attractive articles that are always good, combining the merits of beauty and utility in most artistic fashion. Some of our out-of-town acquaintances having made inquiry about goods advertised in our columns and many goods as well that are not advertised, unfortunately, we take pleasure in giving the desired information.

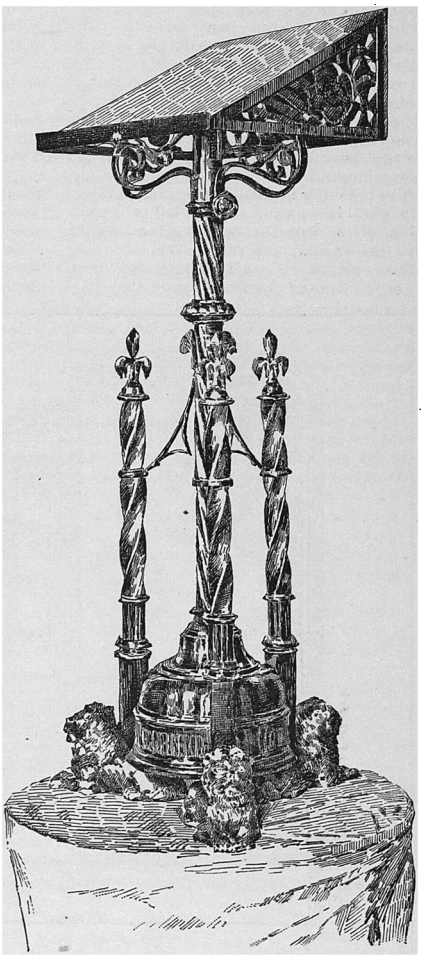
Several inquiries have been made of us about cartridge paper—just what it is and how applied. A few moments conversation with Messrs. Nevius & Haviland makes that part of our task an easy one and, it may be said, a pleasant and interesting one as well. In answer to an inquiry from San Francisco, we can say that Munroe ingrain or "cartridge" paper is a firm, thick material, with a surface more like a very fine full napped cloth than an ordinary wall paper. This paper was first brought to notice by the artist, William Hunt, and used by him for general decoration and wall paper. It is shown in a great variety of colors: terra cotta, copper color, blue in several shades, gray, buff and various wood colors. There are plain papers and also those with very choice designs, really fine illuminations in colors, silver, copper and gold. The application of this paper varies according to the taste of the individual and the furnishings in the room. From the general tone of your letter we infer that it is a half parlor, half sitting-room that needs wall covering—one of those delightful best rooms that is not too fine for the use of the family. A grayish-lemon color that has the effect of a fine camel's hair goods would be desirable, or a shade of grayish olive. The wall should be plain, with frieze in the printed goods to match. Artists in this city are using this paper for bold sketch work. It makes very effective panels for screens, also for hanging against the wall to fill up large unused spaces in halls, or to break the plainness of a room where there are few pictures or ornaments. A lightly-sketched pattern in long grasses, ferns, golden rod, cat tails, or sprays of dog wood blooms would be appropriate and would make very pretty decorations. At the same place we find a very odd and attractive indented, or more properly, embossed wood fibre paper. The goods gives the effect of rifle bullets or miniature cannon balls piled one upon another. It is shown in gilt, silver and bronze surface. Another novelty is a paper that looks more like graham wafer dough than anything else. It is really a sponge fibre, and is extremely odd and has very fine artistic possibilities. It takes color very kindly and also makes charming panels and grounds for decoration. The latest idea is a paper upon which cork scraps are firmly cemented. Over this may be spread silver or gilt paint with fine effect, or the cork may be left without finish.

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A CALL at the warerooms of the Phœnix Furniture Company was next in order, and under the capable pilotage of the manager, Mr. Baldwin. many exquisite pieces of furniture were examined. Among other artistic designs a wardrobe of finely carved walnut was noted. A special feature of this household necessity, and one which all, ladies especially, will appreciate, is the sliding frame upon which the clothes hooks are fastened. The frame draws out so that it is not necessary to reach past a number of garments to get at those that hang on the rear hooks. When the frame—which in this wardrobe is almost square—is fully drawn out, the hooks that belong against the back of the hanging space are almost even with the front doors, and the forward row projects into the room. The carving and general finish on this wardrobe is admirable, and demonstrates the artistic capabilities of American workmen. Some English dressing tables with the quaint small mirrors so common to English country houses were much admired. There were tall, straight-backed hall settees, suggestive of puritanical pulpit chairs, desks of mahogany, cherry, walnut and oak, massive dining-tables, and some superb folding beds. A small volume would be required to describe the various beds of this sort with which our markets are filled. Those shown here, however, seem to posses many points of excellence. They are less noisy than some others, the iron weights being secured in such a way that they do not rattle or grate together. A child's folding bed in cherry, with round plate glass mirror and rich carved finish, is one of the choice samples in the collection.

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AN inspection of the upholstery department at the establishment of Messrs. Mills & Gibb gave many new and interesting hints on draperies, curtains and the like. According to their record of sales the demand is just now quite equally divided between tamboured lace and Madras



LECTERN, DESIGNED AND MADE BY J. B. SHANNON & SONS, PHILA.

curtains. The former style has been somewhat out of favor, or at least there has been no enthusiasm in the trade in them, but they are rapidly recovering their lost prestige and are the best selling medium-priced curtains in their stock. A novelty is known as Soumak; it is a tamboured pattern in bright colors on Brussels net lace, very pretty and effective. A style not unlike the lace is shown with similar tambouring on pine apple muslin.

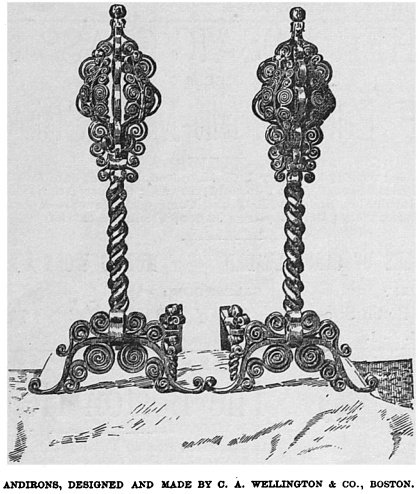
High class tamboured curtains are very attractive. The fine hand-made goods in this grade reach far up in price, quite beyond the reach of any but the favored of fortune. The shading in the leaves and flowers in these fine goods is a veritable art work. Rich heavy curtains of Egyptian lace are shown; they are very elegant and costly. The same may be said of the Russian guipure and point-lace curtains.

Nottingham curtains are in good demand for first-class out of town trade, and really furnish about the best value for the money of any lace goods in market. There are attractive styles in printed Nottinghams, showing clear, bright, floral patterns on white grounds. Clusters and trailing sprays of wild roses on white ground are especially adapted for country houses, cottages and chambers. Single bordered curtains are again preferred, those with double borders seeming to have the pattern too much crowded on the curtain and having a heavier and less pleasing effect than those having border only on one side.

Fine batiste curtains in the style known to the trade as "coin spots," are popular. The name comes from the goods having at intervals spots the sizes of the various American silver coins. These spots are woven in the fabric and are of the same color as the ground or in any of the fashionable contrasting tints; red, blue, olive and sometimes a combination of two shades of the same or a contrasting color being seen. Madras curtains are in high favor. There are various styles, colors and qualities, all good and making desirable draperies. A new tint of lemon-colored Madras goods, both in patterns and by the yard and with narrow fabric for vestibule curtains to match, is just now in great demand. Chenille curtains are shown in seventy-two inches wide goods; these extra wide curtains are designed for portières and there are regular widths and table covers to match.

* * *

SAMUEL GREEN & Co. are getting out some designs in chenille embroidery that will by far surpass anything of the sort ever put upon the market. They will be ready for the fall trade and are certain to create a sensation. At present they have in stock some very choice samples of this grade of goods which is a specialty of their house. There are set figures in assorted sizes, and the most perfect colors, effects that in hand embroidery would represent weeks, perhaps months of painstaking and skilled labor, but which in this chenille and plush embroidery cost but a trifle compared with the labor and expense of making a single small spray and leaves. There are some exquisite and skillful uses of fine tinsel, delicate threads of which appear to be strung from flower to flower, and from one point of foliage to another, giving the effect of spider webs. The goods by the yard are intended for curtain edgings or table cover borders. A very wide and elaborate pattern is for use as a dado on a handsome portière. For mantel lambrequins and all of the ornamental decorations of which ladies are so fond there is nothing in the market so elegant and, at the same time, so inexpensive. Hand embroidery in a similar style would be but little more durable at eight or ten times the cost. We will look with a good deal of interest for the appearance of the coming novelties that this house has in process of manufacture.



ANDIRONS, DESIGNED AND MADE BY C. A. WELLINGTON & CO., BOSTON.

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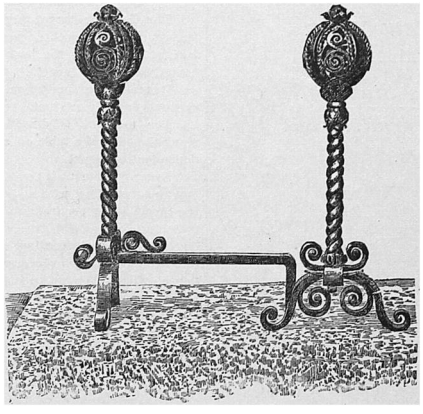
MESSRS. KEELER & Co., of Boston, manufacturers of fine furniture, furnish some charming designs. The hall stand is made of fine grained mahogany with dark finish The carving is especially fine. There are many pieces of furniture now being made in the Colonial style. They are quaint and pretty and have an air of antiquity about them that is just now fashionable. Perhaps it may be well to add that the fancy for old time articles of all sorts has taken such a firm hold of the American mind that it will never be wholly eradicated. We are getting a history and it may be said that we are growing an ancestry, and we do well to give it our attention and see that it is properly done. Another design furnished by Messrs. Keeler & Co. is a mantel in what is known as the "Adams" style. This mantel is of pine, handsomely carved and painted. (Illustration page 85).

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MESSRS. C. A. WELLINGTON & Co, of Boston, show some charming new designs in metal work, their andirons being especially novel and attractive. The application of scroll work is particularly tasteful and effective. The open work ball tops are elegant and in excellent taste. The style with spiral tops would be very desirable for a sitting-room. Either of the others would be appropriate for a parlor or library.

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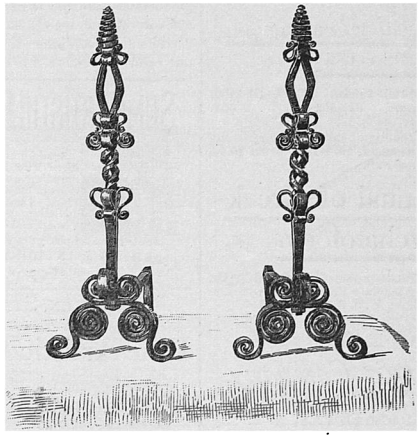
FROM Messrs J. B. Shannon & Sons, Philadelphia, we have a most attractive design for a lectern or reading desk. The quality of the workmanship in these goods is specially to be commended as well as their highly artistic finish. This house has a well-deserved reputation for doing excellent work and bringing out choice designs, the latter demonstrated by the design on preceding page.



ANDIRONS, DESIGNED AND MADE BY C. A. WELLINGTON & CO., BOSTON.

MESSRS. A. MEINECKE & SON, Milwaukee Wis., show a large assortment of choice novelties in India Punjab goods. These tasteful and useful articles are welcome in every household. They are among the most practical and sensible of modern conveniences. The large Punjab table with side boards has such a multiplicity of uses that every lady will want it at once. As a work table it is by far the most convenient and manageable of anything in the market. Its very moderate price brings it within the reach of every housekeeper in the country. As an editor's or writer's convenience table it is just the thing. The paper file, the dictionaries, the current magazines and the thousand and one things with which the desk must not be cumbered can be laid close at hand upon this light, moveable, manageable table. Its comfortable possibilities as a lunch table can be appreciated at a glance. Abundance of shelf room without occupying too much space is one of the most important items in our every day convenience.

The small tables of the same make are so inexpensive and convenient that they appeal to the judgment at once without suggesting too great a demand on the purse. The bracket stands are especially designed for the consolation of that class of women who have any amount of tasteful and artistic odds and ends and nowhere to put them. The various screens, wall pockets, scrap baskets, and mirror conveniences, small in bulk and cost but immensely large and valuable in making up the grand total of every-day ease and peace of mind, need only to be seen to be appreciated, as it requires but few to furnish the house.



ANDIRONS, DESIGNED AND MADE BY C. A. WELLINGTON & CO., BOSTON.